THE GUARDHOUSE FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

by Sally Johnson Ketcham

Furnishing Plan

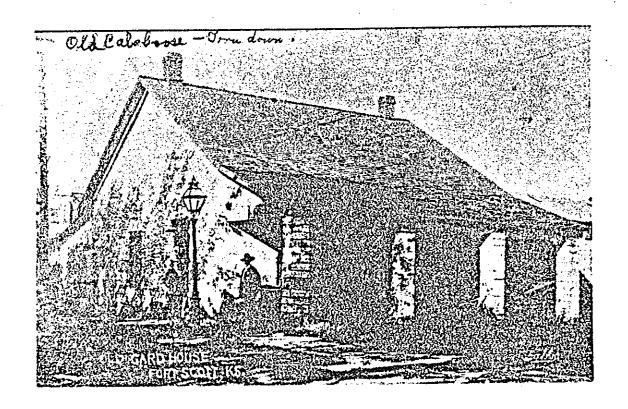
June, 1977 Omaha, Nebraska

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Photograph of the Guardhouse in use as a City Jail, about 1900.

The Mexican War differed from the Civil War in somewhat the same manner that World War I differed from World War II. The concept of mass operations involving thousands and thousands of men, the production of huge supplies of arms and material, the hasty construction of camps to meet immediate needs, etc. evolved during the War Between the States to a much greater extent than it had during the Mexican conflict. There were contrasts in other areas also. Earlier attempts to bring about reforms in the army had been relatively unsuccessful, but the mass infusion of militia and civilian soldiers into the army during the Civil War brought about greater awareness that changes were needed in certain aspects of military life. One of the most glaring of these areas was that involving the proper discipline, reward and punishment, of the enlisted man.

Discipline at any post of the 1800's was strict;
punishments were harsh and often cruel. During the 1820's,
according to a former soldier writing in 1845, the United
States Army had "acquired a very odious notoriety for
the diabolically inhuman treatment of the enlisted men
by their officers; and although laws existed, ostensibly
for the protection of the rights of the former, yet the

loose and inefficient manner of executing them had at length rendered them a mere farce. Men were kicked, cuffed, cursed and even mauled without cause, as suited "the caprice or anger" of the officers. Perhaps some truth to this accusation may be found in the courtmartial of Col. Talbot Chambers, who was accused in 1821 of having the ears of two deserters cut off without even convening a court-martial.

When the commanding officer of a regiment or post was a humane man, the men fared better at the hands of their officers than many of their fellow-soldiers. Respect for the rank of commissioned or noncommissioned officers, regardless of the worthiness of the individual, was demanded unconditionally. Under no circumstance could an enlisted man overstep the line that separated him from his superiors. Gambling, drunkenness on duty,

^{1.} Recollections of the United States Army. A Series of Thrilling Tales and Sketches by an American Soldier (Boston, 1845) 147.

Ibid.

Talbot Chambers joined the army in 1808, rose steadily in rank, becoming lieutenant colonel in the Rifle Regiment in 1817. He was transferred to the First Infantry on June 1, 1821, and was dismissed from the service in 1826. Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army...

I (Washington, 1903) 294.

Sally A. Johnson, "Military Life at Fort Atkinson 1819-1827," unpublished thesis, University of Nebraska, 1957.

fighting, theft, embezzlement, desertion, and insubordination had to be dealt with by post commanders.

Officers, aware of their prerogatives, summarily brought charges against soldiers for failure to salute, disrespectful language, failure to execute and obey orders, etc., and such insubordination was not confined to the ranks but extended to the noncommissioned officers as well. At one period from July 7 to July 12, 1822, at
Fort Atkinson, four sergeants and three corporals of the 6th Regiment of Infantry were reduced to the ranks for infractions of rules.

Discipline became a particular problem at garrisons after pay day, when the men had money in their pockets and could secure extra liquor. Very early, the Inspector General of the Army had reported the effect liquor was having on the discipline of the soldiers. In 1830, in an attempt to curb the drunkenness, which formed an escape for many from the monotony of work and the harshness of frontier life, the gill of whiskey allowed the daily ration was omitted. By 1845,

^{5.} Ibid., 124.

^{6.} Francis Paul Prucha (Ed.), Army Life on the Western Frontier (Norman, 1958) 110.

attempts were made to prohibit drinking, even among the officers, at such posts as Fort Scott, Kansas?

Bored soldiers, however, had little trouble obtaining supplies of liquor one way or another. According to Percival Lowe, the proportion of those who drank excessively, at least among the dragoons, was about ten per cent. This accounted for men undergoing punishment in the guardhouse. Lowe, himself, did not always place a drunken soldier under arrest. He sometimes shut him in a store room to sober up and then put him on extra duty for punishment. This type of action on the part of a noncommissioned officer, however, appears to have been rare.

Once a soldier was under arrest, he was tried, depending upon his crime, either by a court-martial, composed of three officers, or by a general court-martial, consisting of five to eleven members. The smaller court tried minor cases and did not have jurisdiction over capital cases, officers, nor could inflict on any soldier a fine exceeding one month's pay, nor imprison or put to labor a soldier for a longer time than one

Letter to Lt. A. R. Johnston, August 18, 1845, in the manuscript collections, United States Military Academy, West Point.

^{8.} Percival G. Lowe, <u>Five Years a Dragoon</u> (Norman, 1965) 97.

month. The general court martial was convened for the more serious trials and had the above jurisdiction. Although the character of the soldier was taken into consideration, the word of an officer usually was final regarding the guilt or innocence of a man.

The following rare description of a military court proceeding is given as written in 1845 by a soldier, who obviously regarded the activity with prejudiced eyes:

...It generally consists of three members (commissioned officers); one of them, usually the youngest in rank, is the recorder, and acts as Judge Advocate. Although the recorder is presumed to have an eye to the interests of the prisoner as well as those of the government, yet in six cases out of seven he does not appear to recognize that the prisoner can have any interests to be jeopardized.

The prisoner is asked by the advocate, whether he objects to any member of the court? and if he does object, he is required to give good and sufficient reasons for such objection.

Instances of such objection are not unfrequent; but in almost every one, the members of the court find it convenient to deem the reasons for such objection not good and sufficient.

He has the privilege of calling any witnesses in his defence, but if the

^{9. &}quot;Systems of Martial Law, Field Service, and Police,"
American State Papers: Military Affairs, II, 268274.

witnesses are privates they are generally so overawed by the haughty, arrogant bearing of the court, as to be of little service to him. The prisoner is not allowed to speak in his defence, but can address the court through the advocate, or reduce to writing what he may desire to offer in his defence, and present that to the court. After trial, the prisoner is sent back to the guard-house, and the sentence of acquittal in his case is in due time read to him by the officer of the guard....

On the morning after the trial, the prisoners were all paraded on the left flank of the guard, in front of the guard-house, while the officer proceeded to read the proceedings of the court in the gases of those prisoners who had been tried.

A trial of this kind applied to enlisted men. Only the commanding officer had the power to place officers under arrest, except for offences expressly designated by the 27th Article of War. Officers, of course, were not confined in the guardhouse, although they could be restricted to their quarters. "An expression of disapprobation" by the commanding officer was considered sufficient "in most cases" to discipline an office?".

Punishments of the period varied. For refusing to whip a deserter, Augustus Meyers was sentenced to ten

^{10.} Recollections of the United States Army, 14-18.

11. General Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1847, (Washington, 1847) Regulations Nos. 293, 295 and 296.

days hard labor, which consisted of chopping weeds at the officers' quarters and sweeping the roads and keeping the parade ground clear from seven o'clock in the morning until six o'closck at night, ten days in a solitary cell on bread and water, and ten days again at hard labor with confinement in the prison room at Meyers relates that the prisoners shirked their hard labor as much as they could, and that when he was confined in his cell, the sergeants of the guard let him out of his cell into the guard room for hours at a time after dark. He never was bothered by the bread and water diet, because his friends smuggled food to The guards gave him hot coffee, when they served the other prisoners. Plenty of candles and books relieved the monotony. It should be remarked, however, that Meyers was a good soldier and well liked. A trip to the guardhouse was not viewed as a time for "gold bricking." Intentionally, the guardhouse was kept barely habitable, so soldiers would not welcome a few days free from arduous tasks, especially during inclement weather.

^{12.} Augustus Meyers, <u>Ten Years in the Ranks U. S. Army</u> (New York, 1914) 132.

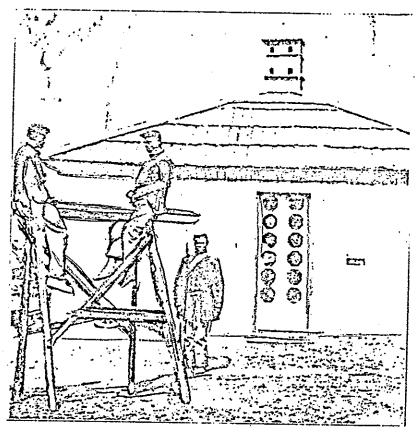
Other punishments meted out ranged from reduction in the ranks, stoppage of pay, and confinement in the guardhouse for minor offenses to "bucking and gagging," "spread eagle," standing on a barrel with a sign that read "I stand for _____," confinement in a choke box or the solitary cells, mounting a wooden horse, and even, as at Fort Atkinson, dunking in the Missouri River. Difficult prisoners could be forced to wear iron collars or balls and chains.

Whipping was a common practice, and Meyers relates that the unpleasant job often was given to a musician.

Desertion was not uncommon, and the chance for a new life amid the anonymity of the Indian territories appealed to disgruntled soldiers. There was at least one case of desertion at Fort Scott in 1843, but the soldiers were soon apprehended and brought back in irons to the post. No mention of their punishment is made. Deserters usually were stripped of insignia, branded with a "D," drummed out of their regiment, and sent out into the surrounding country to find

^{13.} Johnson, 122. These practices continued late into the century. See Don Rickey, Jr., Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay (Norman, 1963) Chapter 9.

^{14.} Erwin N. Thompson, Fort Scott, Kansas, Site Identification (Washington, February 15, 1967) 68-69.



"RIDING THE SAWBUCK" AT THE VICKSBURG GUARD-HOUSE



their way home as best they could. Rarely, but occasionally, a soldier was driven to taking matters into his own hands.

A convicted murderer was executed before the entire command and his body given to the surgeon for dissection.

Inside the guardhouse men were not free from abuse. At Fort Atkinson, Corporal Gibson was reprimanded for striking a prisoner several times with his gun and sword. He was told that he "should have found some other means to silence the noise of an intoxicated prisoner.... A gag in such a case may be much more appropriate than a sword or a musket.

All soldiers were expected to take their turn at guard duty, which came about every fifth day. The duty was never welcomed. In addition to having to walk a post, the man off duty was forced to sleep on a hard platform, fully attired. A post paced two hours during the daytime, when there was something to see, differed at night, when even familiar objects seemed suspicious and threatening. Ordinarily a man was relieved after two hours of duty, but during extreme cold he generally went off post after an hour.

^{15.} Johnson, 123-124.

^{16. &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>

Guard duty was extremely arduous, nearly half the men being under arms and on post day and night. According to Lowe, the constant strain told on the disposition of the men more in camp than on active marches. They became tired and morose and welcomed almost any change in routine.

The old guard was relieved in the morning after its twenty-four hour duty by the new guard.

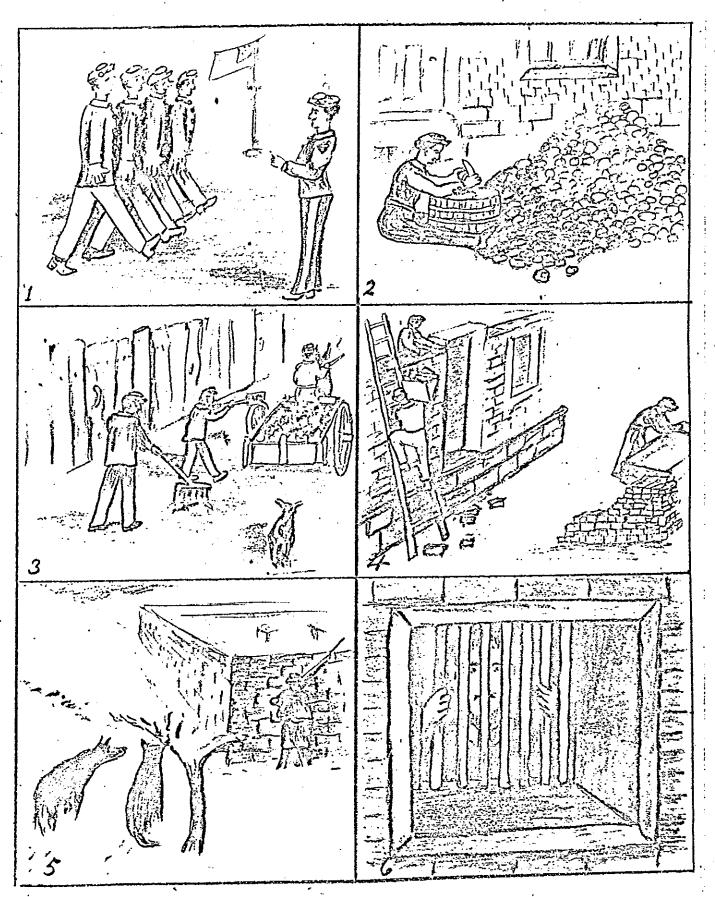
The new guard was inspected and reviewed in an impressive ceremony. Soldiers took great pride in the appearance they presented at guard mounting. Clothing, arms, and equipment gleamed. The soldier whose equipment was considered the cleanest and neatest was selected as the commanding officer's orderly and excused from guard duty. There was great rivalry for this selection, for the orderly had an easy time and could sleep in his own bunk all night.

Guards were posted where needed, depending upon the extent of the post and the strength of the garrison. At Fort Laramie, the guards were stationed

^{17.} Lowe, 85.

^{18.} Meyers, 167.

^{19.} General Regulations..., 1847, No. 612.



at the guardhouse, commissary and quartermaster offices and issuing rooms, the public warehouse, the magazine, and at times of an alert at the stables, other buildings, and hay fields. A sentinel was stationed at the flagstaff and sundial at Fort Leavenworth.

It was the task of the officer of the quard to inspect the guard and prisoners, see punishments were carried out, visit the guard periodically, and respond to emergencies. Regulations regarding guard mounting and the duties of the guard were precise, and woebetide the officer who did not follow the lengthy instructions set out in the regulations. The officer always was present at quard mounting. No other officer, except the garrison commander, could interfere with or give an order at the parade to the staff officer on duty. The officer of the quard was required to send to the officer of the day, at guard mounting, by a noncommissioned officer, a report of his tour of duty. A specific form was available for this report. between inspections, time passed slowly for the

^{20.} Sally A. Johnson, "Furnishing Plan for the Old Guardhouse, Fort Laramie National Historic Site" (December, 1961), typed copy in Midwest Region.

^{21.} Lowe, 26.

^{22.} General Regulations..., 1847, No. 634.

officer in charge, unless there was trouble. At Fort Laramie, one bored lieutenant relieved the monotony by scribbling obscene rhymes on the walls of his office and received a sharp rebuke from his commander.

On July 8, 1844, the Inspector General, Colonel George Croghan visited the then two-year-old Fort Scott. Concerning the discipline of the post, Croghan had high praise: "The discipline of this post is good, in truth I have visited no garrison which in this respect has impressed me more favorably." Some of the good discipline may be explained, however, by the fact that only two companies of infantry were then in residence. The company of dragoons had been sent to Fort Leavenworth for an expedition west.

Perhaps because of the above report, construction of a permanent guardhouse was delayed at Fort Scott.

until 1845. It was not completed until 1848. It is probable that an earlier guardhouse, made of logs like the other first buildings, was in use prior to that time. Built of stone, the new guardhouse had four

^{23. &}quot;Old Guardhouse, Fort Laramie..." 5.

^{24.} Inspection Reports, Headquarters of the Army, RG 108, in the National Archives.

rooms and a hall. A porch crossed the front facing the parade ground. The structure was to see little use by the military, however, for in 1853 the post was abandoned. In 1858, Augustus Meyers marched to Fort Scott and camped there briefly. He mentions the townspeople, numbering about 200, and remarks that they were occupying the old fort structures. The guardhouse was then in use as a jail. During the Civil War, the guardhouse became an adjunct to the general hospital. It reverted to service as a city jail, after the Rebellion. In 1906, it was torn down.

based on the plan of Fort Scott drawn by the post quartermaster, c. 1848, archeological evidence uncovered by Thomas Barr of the Kansas State Historical Society, and a photograph of the guardhouse, then in use as a jail, taken c. 1900. Present plans call for the guardhouse to be furnished only partially. The officer's room, the solitary cells, and the prison room will be furnished as they were about 1848. The guards' room, however, will have exhibits and orientation only. Interior inter-

^{25.} Meyers, 140-141.

^{26.} Thompson, 182-183.

pretation will be self-guiding, enhanced by exhibit panels. Visitors will be allowed to circulate within the cell and prison areas and even to have limited access to them. In addition to an interpretive sign outside near the entrance doorway, it has been suggested that a low-volume audio-message device with a 90-second program aimed primarily at visitors, who failed to hear the one at the Hospital on busy days, be installed. The "talk" would mention the Guard-house, invite visitors inside, discuss the remaining tours of the buildings, and recommend that visitors pick up a free self-guiding leaflet.

^{26.} Edwin C. Alberts, "Interpretive Planning Report for Fort Scott Historic Area, Kansas," copy of report in Midwest Region Office.

ACCOUNT OF FURNISHINGS HISTORICALLY USED IN THE GUARDHOUSE

With the possible exception of the War of 1812, there is no period of military conflict in the history of our country that has as little information to use as a basis for authentic furnishing restoration as that period just prior to and during the Mexican War. Official records have disappeared, either not collected and preserved at the time or destroyed later. The reports for Fort Scott, which fall within this time frame, are exceedingly skimpy. The records of contemporary posts, which might form a comparison, are sparse. Surgeons, quartermasters and inspectors accounts are seldom detailed or adequately descriptive for today's restoration purposes.

As a result, the picture of the military guard-house of the 1840's and 1850's has been drawn from contemporary written accounts in diaries, reminiscences, and available official records, supplemented by accounts of the Civil War period, reports from surgeons at a later date that seem to apply to earlier-built prisons, original evidence surviving in the few old guardhouses remaining today, and two rare 1866 floor plans and elevations for the guardhousesat Fort Leavenworth.

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The image that emerges is surprispingly consistent and in general indicates that the army was slow changing. Descriptions of guardhouses and methods of disciplining from 1820 through 1880 are remarkably similar. The plan of a guardhouse, consisting of an officer's room, guardroom, prison, and a solitary cell area, remains little changed. Later guardrooms may have had areas for the storage of the tools used in policing the garrison, kerosene lanterns substituted for candle lighting equipment, and metal gun racks in place of wooden gun racks, but little else differs.

The guardhouse had no luxuries and few conveniences. Purposely, the convicted soldiers were made as uncomfortable as possible, without endangering their health, so that they would not seek detention to avoid work. Post surgeons' reports repeatedly decry the dampness and cold of cells and the lack of ventilation, but the absence of proper sanitary facilities, lack of beds of any kind, and want of heat during winter months are seldom mentioned. These were facts that were accepted as part of the punishment. By 1870, some cognizance of this

short-sightedness was being taken, and the surgeon at Fort Harker, Kansas, suggested that "hygiene is not incompatible with security in guard-house buildings, and it is thought more consideration of this important subject might be well had in planning them / guard-houses_7 and in their construction 27.

The Buildings

Two floor plans and elevations for guardhouses at Fort Leavenworth, dated 1866, were secured from the National Archives by Thomas Barr of the Kansas Historical Society. One plan is for a two-story building, with piazzas similar to those on the hospital at Fort Scott. The upper story contained offices, cells, prison room, and guardroom, and the lower story apparently was one large prison room. The second set of plans is for a one-story building containing an office, guardroom, prison, and cells. The exterior of the structure is more like the guardhouse at Fort Scott, except that it is wood and does not have a porch. Neither building probably was in use at the time the guardhouse at Fort Scott was built. Percival Lowe's description of Fort

^{27.} Circular No. 4. A Report on Barracks and Hospitals, with Descriptions of Military Posts (Washington, 1870) 295.

Leavenworth in 1849 locates the guardhouse about one hundred yards southeast of "Bedlam." It was, in his words, "an unmerciful dungeon, stone basement and heavy log superstructure." Lowe goes on to write: "A little northwest of this __ the hospital_7 a two-story stone building, now embraced in the Military Prison, was built in 1850 and used as quartermaster's stores and offices." The two-story building mentioned may be the one in the plans.

Only a few original guardhouses of the western frontier exist today. There is a surviving guardhouse at Fort Laramie. It was built in 1866 to replace an older one. This 1866 guardhouse is a two-story structure, built of stone, standing on the bank of the Laramie River. The upper story, on level with the parade ground, was occupied by the officer of the day and the guard. The lower story contained a prison room and cells. One of the three original solitary cells remains. Partitioned with wood, the cell was floored and lined with plank. Barred vents over the door and in the back wall admitted air to

^{28.} Lowe, 26.

^{29.} Ibid.

this restricted area. The door was secured by a heavy iron bar. Probably there was a partition and hall between the prison room and cells that has disappeared, along with a stairway from the room above. A feature in common to both the Fort Leaven—worth plans and the surviving Fort Laramie structure, is the use of doors made of diagonal wooden boards. The added strength better resisted the efforts of rebellious soldiers to batter and kick down the doors.

Little attention is paid to the interior finish of guardhouses. Few descriptions that have any bearing date earlier than 1870. The building materials used in a structure seem to have been the finish of the walls in the cell areas and prison room, although at Fort Laramie the stone cell area was lined with wooden plank. At Fort Lapwai, Idaho, three cells that were partitioned were double-lined with two inch plank. The ceilings also were planked, but in 1872 it was recommended that the ceilings be changed to iron grating for better ventilation. At Little Rock, Arkansas, the guardhouse was "ceiled at the level of

^{30.} Letter from Erwin Thompson, Historic Preservation Division, Denver Service Center, to Vance Kaminski, Historic Architect, Midwest Region, March 14, 1977.

the eaves with boards. At Jefferson Barracks, an old post, the brick guardhouse had arched ceilings. Ventilation was provided by the upper half of the iron doors, which were grated. There were no windows. Occasionally ridge ventilation is mentioned.

Plastered walls, at least in prison areas, seem to have been unknown. At Fort McHenry, Maryland, there are today excellent examples of the slime still growing on the walls and floors of the cells. The walls at Fort Laramie were whitewashed, and this seems to have been a fairly early custom. At Fort Leavenworth, in 1857 the surgeon referred to the fact that the guard-house was "often whitewashed and daily aired" in an attempt to arrest an outbreak of erysipelas.

The apertures providing ventilation in the guardhouses varied as much as the structures themselves. Because they were avenues of escape, most windows were grated or barred. A sketch of a guardhouse window, drawn by a soldier about 1880, shows a simple grated opening without glass (see illustration). No protection

^{31.} Circular No. 4..., 275.

^{32.} Ibid., 278.

^{33.} Thompson, letter of March 14, 1977.

^{34.} Richard H. Cooledge, <u>Statistical Report on the Sickness and Mortality in the Army...</u> (Washington, 1860)96.



BEFORE HE SWAM TO LIBERTY-ALEXANDER AND HIS FELLOW-CAPTIVES IN FORT WARREN

The boyish-looking prisoner with the big buttons on the right—number "24"—is Lieutenant Joseph W. Alexander, who was captured at Savannah when the iron steamer "Atlanta" was taken on June 17, 1863, and sent to the stronghold near Boston. This slender youth squeezed himself through a loophole a little over eight inches wide, and succeeded in ewimming to a small island, after a narrow escape from recapture. Three of his friends and two sailors accompanied him. Before he left the shore with Lieutenant Thurston two sentinels came along. One thought that he saw something lying in the water, and extended his gun till the point of his bayonet rested upon Thurston's chest. The latter lay still, and the sentinel concluded it was a log. Lieutenants Alexander and Thurston escaped in a fishing-smack, but were recaptured and sent back to Fort Warren after a short confinement in Portland. The other captives in this photograph, as numbered are: 16, Pilot Fleetwood; 17, Master-mate N. McBlair, both of the "Atlanta"; 18, Reid Saunders, C. S. A.; 19, Lieutenant A. Bobot; 20, Pilot Austin, both of the "Atlanta"; 21, Lieutenant C. W. Read, of the privateer "Tacony"; 22, Samuel Sterritt, C. S. A.; 23, Midshipman Williamson, and 25, Communder W. A. Webb, both of the "Atlanta."

from the elements or dust was provided. At Fort Omaha, Nebraska, the prison room was described as having three grated windows, which were two feet square and placed eight feet above the floor. They must have had glass sashes or shutters also, however, because the windows had to be kept open constantly to admit adquate amounts of air. There was no ventilation in the cells. At Plattsburg, New York, an old post, the cells had grated windows that were one foot square near the top of the wall. Additional air was obtained from similar gratings in the doors. At Fort Monroe, Virginia, mention is made of the windows having immovable blinds, which permitted very little sunlight and almost no fresh air.

There were a few photographs of prisons taken during the Civil War. All are exterior views, and most of the prisons taken were not originally intended as guardhouses. Libby Prison, one of the better known, was a warehouse until converted to prison use. Photographs of Libby Prison show the windows

^{35.} Circular No. 4..., 330.

^{37.} Ibid., 77.

to have glass sashes with bars on the outside.

This was true at Fort Warren also (see illustrations).

The 1866 guardhouse at Fort Laramie was converted

later to a magazine, at which time the windows were

closed with adobe brick. The original bars remain

on the windows of the guardroom. If there were glass

sashes at these windows, they were removed at the time

the bricks were inserted.

There seems to have been a rash of guardhouse building following the Civil War. A new guardhouse was erected at Willet's Point, New York Harbor, in 1867, which incorporated ventilating shafts. The structure was a sound one, as the following description testifies:

... The basement is of granite, with thick concrete floor, divided into one large cell 30 feet by 18 feet, and 10 feet high, one light cell 8 by 9 feet, and one dark cell 5 by 9 feet, each of the latter being 10 feet high. The large cell is lighted by three long narrow iron-barred windows, and ventilated by these and two air shafts. Each of the other cells has a similar ventilating shaft. The average number of persons confined for the year past is nine; not more than one prisoner is confined in either the light or the dark cell at the same time;...

^{38.} Ibid., 44.

two Parker grant 1860-1870

The one photograph extant of the stone guardhouse at Fort Scott was taken about 1900, when the building had been in use for almost fifty years as a city jail. The angle at which the picture was taken does not permit a full view of the windows. It appears there were shutters, opening outward at the top, in the openings. A shutter has been reconstructed by Architect William Wagner, which probably is close to what is seen in the 1900 photo. If this kind of shutter was in use during the military occupation, c. 1848, however, it may have been unique to the army. If the original windows were grated, the shutters may have been added to protect the inmates from the cold. It also is possible that the windows had glass sashes originally. If glass was there, it may have been broken through the years, and shutters were found to be a more durable replacement. The combination of bars, glass, and shutters now in place at the windows of the reconstructed guardhouse at Fort Scott does not seem to be in keeping with the information available from the Mexican and Civil War periods, and it is suggested more study may be needed in this area.

Furnishings

Furnishings are rarely mentioned in official reports or in reminiscences. It is the lack of fur-

nishings in the prison areas that is commented upon by officers and soldiers.

Officer's Room. The Officer of the Day seems to have had a very simply furnished office. Rarely is it mentioned. Augustus Meyers gives us a brief glimpse of one during the Civil War, which he describes as being simply furnished with a number of desks and a stove.

Regulations of 1860 specified that an office was to be furnished with the following: two common desks or tables, six common chairs, one pair common andirons, and one pair of shovels and tongs. The furniture was to be constructed by the quartermaster and made from material on hand. All QMD furniture was finished with a stain made from a mixture of burnt sienna and Vandyke brown, stirred up in water and applied with a sponge. Shades of color varied, since the formula could be darkened to taste. Oil was mixed in or applied over the stain. Since there is little change in the regulations issued between 1820 and 1860, there is reason to believe this stain formula used in 1860 had been mixed by the quartermasters for considerable time.

^{39.} Meyers, 346.

The 1860 regulations further stipulated that offices were to be painted with white lead. The shutters and window shades were to be painted verdigris (a green or greenish-blue hue). Where there were fire-place mantels, they were to be stained with lamp black. There was no specification regarding the finish of floors and ceilings. Presumedly, this was left to the discretion of the quartermaster and his commanding officer to decide whether the walls and ceilings were wood or plaster. Chief consideration must have been the money and material available. Although regulations were precise in many instances, quartermasters were given considerable leniency in construction and furnishing their buildings.

As late as 1870, heat was supplied to officer's and guardrooms only; there were few exceptions. Prisoners went cold. While guardhouses, such as that at Fort Smith, Arkansas, as late as 1870 were heated by fireplaces, as early as the 1840's stoves were being requisitioned for use at military posts. Captain Swords ordered 12 coal burning stoves for Fort Scott to place in "authorized Rooms which will not be provided with Fireplaces" in 1843. Since there is no evidence of

^{40.} Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1890, RG 92, National Archives.

fireplaces in the foundations of the guardhouse, it must be presumed stoves were the principal heating units in the structure.

Records of sentences and prisoners on hand had to be kept, and the officer of the guard was required to fill out a report of his tour of duty. Books of this type probably were kept on some kind of shelf in the office. This shelf would have been provided by the quartermaster. The only approved lighting devices in the 1840's would have been candle. Information about deserters and garrison orders probably were posted in the officer's room. These would have been attached to the wall for the information of the guard and the new officer of the day.

Guardroom. As simply furnished as the officer's room was, the guard had even fewer comforts. Some concern for the condition of these men was expressed by a surgeon, who wrote that "members of the guard, the elite for the time, always charged with the most important duties known to army life, should be lodged in time of peace as comfortably as when they are in quarters,... They seldom were. The

^{41.} Circular No. 8. A Report of the Hygiene of the United States Army (Washington, 1875) 46-47.

guardroom at Fort Laramie contained a rough board bed, a couple of chairs, and a desk.

During their four hour respite, the guard slept on a "banquette" or wooden platform. There are several references to the platform in contemporary writings. Augustus Meyers, recalling his stint of guard duty in the 1850's, said:

...We had little rest at night, during the four hours off, when we lay down on a hard wooden platform in the guard-house which was built for that purpose. We had to keep all our clothing and accoutrements on, and were generally disturbed after midnight by sentinel number one in front of the guardhouse calling out, 'Turn out the guard for the officer of the day' when we hurried out, formed ranks and were inspected by the officer of the day, who usually made the rounds of all the sentings on the different posts at that hour.

Evidence of the platform bed dating back to the eighteenth century was found at the Castillo De San Marcos, where joists in the wall of the guardroom indicated that a bed approximately 20 feet by 6 feet by 30 inches had been fastened. The other end of the platform was supported by posts driven into the dirt

^{42. &}quot;Old Guardhouse, Fort Laramie..." 15-16.

^{43.} Meyers, 159.

floor. As late as 1875, surgeons protested the use of the platform for the guards to sleep on during their few hours off duty. Without bed sacks of any kind, the guard slept little better than the prisoners on the floor. A few considerate post commanders permitted bed ticks filled with straw to be laid on the platform beds, but this came later. At Fort Scott the bare hard platform probably was in use.

There are no surviving QMD chairs at Fort Scott.

There is one chair of a later date in the collections

at Fort Laramie. The style is old. It is a ladderback, with solid plank seat and arms. It was made for
hard usage such as soldiers gave their furniture.

When off duty, the guard placed their guns in a rack. Photographs of gun racks taken in barracks after the Civil War exist, but there are no descriptions of gun racks of the Mexican War period. Inspector General Croghan comments vaguely on gun racks. At Fort Scott he merely states that neither bunks nor arm racks had been made for the new barracks, and that such "as are in

^{44.} Albert Manucy, "Notes on the Excavation of Colonial Floors in the Sally Port and Guardroom Area at Castillo De San Marcos," Copy in Midwest Region.

the huts are worth nothing. Prior to the standard round metal gun rack, weapons probably were set in wooden racks made by the quartermaster or stacked.

Prison Room. Prisoners with light sentences were placed in the prison room. This usually was a large room with adequate ventilation but unheated. There seems to have been no furnishings in the room. The men brought their blankets and slept on the floor. Only rarely was a platform bed permitted. Meyers, during his one stay in the guardhouse, indicated he preferred the cells to sleeping in the prison room with the other inmates.

Cells. Each guardhouse had an area set aside for light and dark cells, which were reserved for the worst offenders—soldiers who refused to obey orders, had delirium tremens, were riotous, or perhaps were mentally disturbed. The light cells had small openings in or above the doors admitting some light and air. Dark cells had solid doors, and ventilation was provided by openings in the rear wall or by shafts. Cells were unheated and without sanitary facilities.

^{45.} Inspection Reports, Department of the Army, July 8, 1844.

Buckets served the latter purpose. Since many guard-houses were built of stone, like Fort Scott's, the cell areas were cold and damp. Although the foul air was of concern to the surgeons at the garrisons around the country, it was not until years after the Civil War that conditions improved for those in confinement.

PART III

RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

Discipline played an important role in the lives of soldiers in the Nineteenth Century Army. There was a distance between officers and enlisted men that is difficult today to understand. Infractions, even small ones, were punished with a harshness foreign to our present day army. Trials of enlisted men, such as they were, provided no lawyers for the defendents and no juries of peers.

Part of the problem lay in the men themselves. The core of the army was a group of dedicated soldiers, who failing to find themselves in civilian life sought adventure with the military. Many were former teachers, clerks, blacksmiths, and farmers. Some were recent immigrants. There was a small group, estimated by Lowe at ten percent, who joined the army because their personalities did not fit them for civilian life. Quarrelsome, contentious, and often drunk, these men enlisted to escape a troublesome past, and found they had made a hard bargain.

The story of the latter is one the guardhouse at Fort Scott portrays to visitors, but the guardhouse also should tell the story of the men who patrolled garrisons endless hours on sentinel duty, the boring

and tiresome job only occasionally relieved by excitement. Winters sometimes were so cold a sentinel almost froze at his post; and in the summer he paced his beat in a uniform ill-suited to the blazing sun, all the time carrying his heavy musket and accourrements.

Quartermaster-made furniture used in guardhouses of the Mexican and Civil War periods has disappeared. Little of it was saved and few pieces have survived in museums and refurnished army buildings. Queries to the U. S. Army Center of Military History and to the Smithsonian Institution have been fruitless. from this period has been preserved in their collections. At Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming, there are three pieces of QMD built furniture but of a later date. These consist of a small corner cupboard, a ladder-back chair, and an icebox. At Fort Garland in Colorado, there is a mess chest and a field desk of four gas under the little of the form of the little of the form of the Civil War period. There may be a few other pieces was stand. scattered about the country that are unknown to this writer, but the surviving pieces are few in number and Sound at Fort probably none date to the Mexican War period. criptions in regulations are of limited help. the army was slow to change, some duplication in style of items in Civil War photographs may be permitted.

Otherwise, reliance has been made on styles of the 1840's to determine the furnishings. With this in mind, the following furnishing plan for the Fort Scott Guardhouse is proposed.

Officer of the Guard's Room

At the time this plan is written, the interior of the guardhouse is unfinished. This has posed a minor problem in the placement of the furnishings, which to some degree are regulated by light. It is not possible at the present time to guage how sunlight coming through the barred and shuttered window will illuminate this office. It is reasonable to assume the light will be little more than sufficient. For this reason, the desk is situated in front of the window to provide the maximum light to the officer of the day.

Desk: The desk proposed is a type that was produced in the 1840's in several different styles. The one selected is the base of a Gothic secretary, made in 1840. The leg, however, can be found on desks dating from the 1820's through the 1860's. Newel posts and balusters in the buildings constructed by Thomas Swords at Fort Scott indicate he had sufficient men and woodworking tools to made a simple desk of this style.

The desk has a table-like base, approximately 38 to 48 inches long. It overhangs a plain skirt with one large drawer. The drawer knobs are mushroom-turned wood. There are four turned tapering legs with ring-turned elements at the top. The legs are squarish appearing and slightly thicker

about three-quarters of the way up. The legs rest on peg feet. On top of the table is a smaller unit that extends the length of the desk. In this unit are two drawers with knobs similar to those in the base drawer. The desk top may be wood or covered with green baize. There should be evidence of wear however, and some old spilled ink stains.

Accessories: On the desk a form should be laid to be filled out by the officer of the guard. This appears on page 111 of the 1847 Regulations, and a copy is in the appendix. No size is given in the regulations, but it probably was larger than the reproduction. Beside the paper there should be an inkwell and a quill pen. The inkwell may be a small stoneware bottle with stopper. Laying beside it should be a quill pen and a wooden or pewter sander for blotting ink.

On the top section of the desk, a candlestick holder and candle should be set. An old hogscraper tin piece or a plain brass holder with tray to catch the drips may be used. The candle should be partially burner.

Stove: A small heating stove should be set in the corner of the office near the desk. The three-legged stove used in the plan was manufactured in 1843 and is quite ornate as were most of the stoves of this period. J. S. & M. Peckham of Utica, New York, and Johnson, Greer & Cox made stoves in the 1840's. Rococo and Gothic styles were prized, and fortunately most stoves of this period are stamped with the patent date. The army does not appear to have had a standard stove at this time. Because fireplaces were still so much in use, stoves seem to have been purchased from contractors as needed. There were

^{46.} Connie Morningstar, "Some More Desks of the 19th Century," The Antiques Journal (February, 1976) 17.

frequent complaints that stoves came broken and parts were impossible to obtain from quartermasters.

The stove should be attached by pipe to the flue in the wall. The flue does not enter this room; it connects to the prison room. Why this was, is not clear, but the architects have found at this post the flues are at odd places and evidence of meandering pipes has been found.

Coal box: A small wooden packing box, approximately 18 by 20 inches, should be set on the floor beside the stove. In it should be placed local coal, a small tin shovel for feeding the stove and a poker. No plate for the stove to rest on is needed, since the floor is flagstone.

Spittoon: Between the officer's desk and the stove, a small keg filled with sand may be placed. The keg may be a former powder keg with hickory bands at the top and bottom.

Chairs: There should be two arm chairs in the office. Although regulations permitted more, officers were not encouraged to hang around the guardhouse, and benches probably were substituted for the prisoners to sit on before confinement. The chair recommended is similar to but earlier than the QMD chair at Fort Laramie. It should be a ladder-back with Per approximately four slats. The Nineteenth Century ladder-backs, in contrast to earlier ones. usually did not have a finial at the end of the back posts. The legs were quite plain. small ring-and-ball decoration on the front post supported the arms. The arms were plain, curving outward slightly. There were two rungs each between the legs, except at the back where one only sometimes was used. The seats were rush.

^{47.} Donald Shelley, "Stoves," Popular Antiques at the Henry Ford Museum (Westfield, N. Y., 1959) 17.

^{48.} Raymond & Marguerite Yates, A Guide to Victorian Antiques (New York, 1949) 49-52.

Shelf: On the wall opposite the door, a small shelf should be hung. This should be approximately 36 inches long and eight inches wide. The shelf should be supported by curved brackets attached to an eight or ten inch back. A similar back should support brackets above the shelf. The shelf may be stained and varnished to match the woodwork, or it may be stained to the quartermaster specifications on page 24.

Accessories: On the shelf a number of books should be placed. These ideally should consist of old record books kept in the guard-house, the Regulations for 1847, and perhaps law books of the 1830's and 1840's.

Table: Regulations for 1860 required two desks or tables in each office. Because the officer was permitted to leave his post only to inspect the guard, respond to queries of the guard, etc. over a twenty-four hour period, it is recommended that a general purpose table be placed in the office behind his desk. On this table his meals would be served and water would be available when he was thirsty. The table should be similar to those reproduced for the hospital ward but should be slightly larger, approximately 36 by 24 inches. This also should show evidence of use.

Accessories: On the table a gray stoneware jug, similar to those Tom Barr excavated, should be set. This type would have a small base and neck with a wide shoulder and applied handle. The jug should be stoppered. Beside the jug a cup for the officer's use should be set. This cup should be made of tin with a riveted handle.

Lantern: A candle lantern should be hung from a square nail driven in the wall above the table. This lantern would provide additional light at night and be immediately accessible to the officer when there was an emergency. The lantern recommended is a tin lantern common to this period. Three sides are glass; the base and back are tin.

The cone-shaped top is perforated tin and has a round or oblong ring from which the lantern is hung. A series of heavy wire loops around the outside protect the glass from breakage.

Coat rack: Between the corner and the doorway leading outside, a board with pegs on which coats and accoutrements could be hung should be nailed. The area has such an old peg board, which should be copied for use in this area.

Posters: To the left of the doorway, a number of hand written posters should be tacked to the wall. These should describe deserters from other posts, such as Fort Gibson and Fort Leavenworth, who might be seen in the vicinity of Fort Scott. (Pictures were not available at this time.) Persons wanted in connection with depredations on wagon trains or horse thieves may be included also. Circulars pertaining to the post and a list of the sentinel posts should be prominently displayed. Since the sentinel posts at Fort Scott are not known today, some imagination is allowed. Those suggested are: the guardhouse, the headquarters, the magazine, the quartermaster stores, and the stables. Some of the circulars should show aging. These will have to be reproduced by the area.

Cupboard: The cupboard hanging in the corner is similar to the QMD piece at Fort Laramie. The latter is a plain corner cabinet with a bow front. There is one door with a knob. Inside are two shelves. The cupboard should be approximately 24 inches at the legs of the triangle with a curve to fit the angle of the wall. A deviation from the Fort Laramie piece is the elimination of the peak formed at the top of the cupboard. This one may be straight across the top. The cupboard should be stained to match the woodwork or with the QMD formula. Inside the cupboard would be kept the neck and



leg irons and gags used on the prisoners. It may be desirable to acquire some of these old irons to use in interpreting the story of the guardhouse.

Benches: Along the wall, two benches approximately four feet by 12 to 18 inches should be placed. While soldiers were given little consideration when arrested, many must have been too drunk to stand when they were brought to the office. They probably were dumped unceremoniously on the benches until the officer of the guard could deal with them.

<u>Windows</u>: No further window treatment is needed. There would have been neither curtains nor shades.

The Guardroom

No furnishings are proposed for this room. Current plans call for the guardroom to be utilized as an exhibit area with displays interpreting discipline at Fort Scott.

The Prison Room

All accounts indicate there was little effort to maintain more than a minimum of comfort for the men incarcerated here. Neither bunks nor the platform bed is recommended for this area. The introduction of sleeping accommodations in prison rooms seems to have come after the Civil War.

Blankets: Men confined to the prison room were allowed to bring their blankets with them. These provided some warmth and protection from the cold stone floor at night. When the prisoners were out at hard labor, the blankets probably

were folded or rolled up neatly and stored in a corner of the room. It is recommended that several Mexican War period blankets be acquired and used here. Because of the rarity of such original items, reproductions are recommended. Possible sources for such blankets are Harpers Ferry Service Center at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and the National Historical Services, P. O. Box 81, Jessup, Maryland.

Bench: A small bench, similar to those recommended for the Officer of the Guard's room, should be set against the far wall near the window. The bench should be approximately 36 by 16 inches in size.

Accessories: A wooden water bucket should be set on the bench, along with a dipper. buckets usually had two longer staves which extended above the lip. These were pierced and the handle attached to the staves. usually had wood bands that were fastened with metal pins. Some had hickory bands or metal bands, but the latter probably would not have been used by the army for this purpose. Handles were either wood or metal wire. dipper or ladle may be either wood or a simple gourd. A tin bucket is not recommended for this area, because it might be a potential weapon or device for escape.

Buckets: Two other wooden buckets or pails should be set in the corners to be used as latrines by the men at night. Ordinarily, the men would be taken out to the latrine during the daytime.

Window: No window treatment is recommended.

The Cells

The cell area will have little in the way of furnishings. This area appears from contemporary accounts to have been no more than a hole in which the worst offenders were confined.

Buckets: In each cell, a wooden bucket, similar to those recommended for the prison, should be set. These should have wood hoops.

Miscellaneous

Although not part of the furnishings for the guardhouse interior, several suggestions regarding the area adjacent to the guardhouse are proposed. To give a more complete picture of punishment, it is recommended that a "sawbuck", similar to the one in the illustration of the guardhouse at Vicksburg, be erected. A barrel, like that in the Civil War sketch "Punishment drill in camp..." and a heavy log, similar to the one being carried by the soldier in the same sketch, could be set on the guardhouse porch to be used as interpretive devices.

ESTIMATES

Officer of the Guard's Room

Sawbuck Barrel

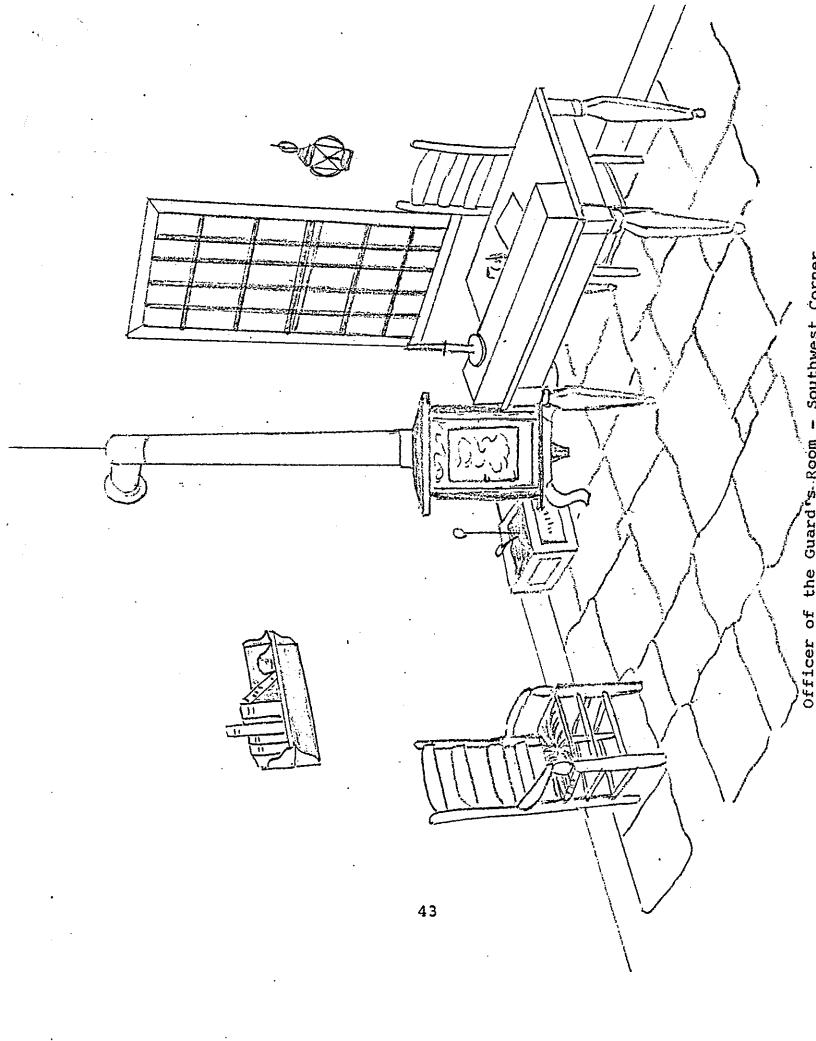
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Inkwell	25.00	
Sander	50.00	
Miscellaneous	15.00	
Candleholder	75.00	- 1
Stove	600.00	
Box, shovel, poker	140.00	
Keg	80.00	
Chairs, two	350.00	
Shelf		
Books	150.00	
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Table	150.00	- 1
Jug	100.00	
Cup	50.00	
Lantern	95.00	
Coat rack	55.00	
Posters	45.00	
Cupboard	150.00	
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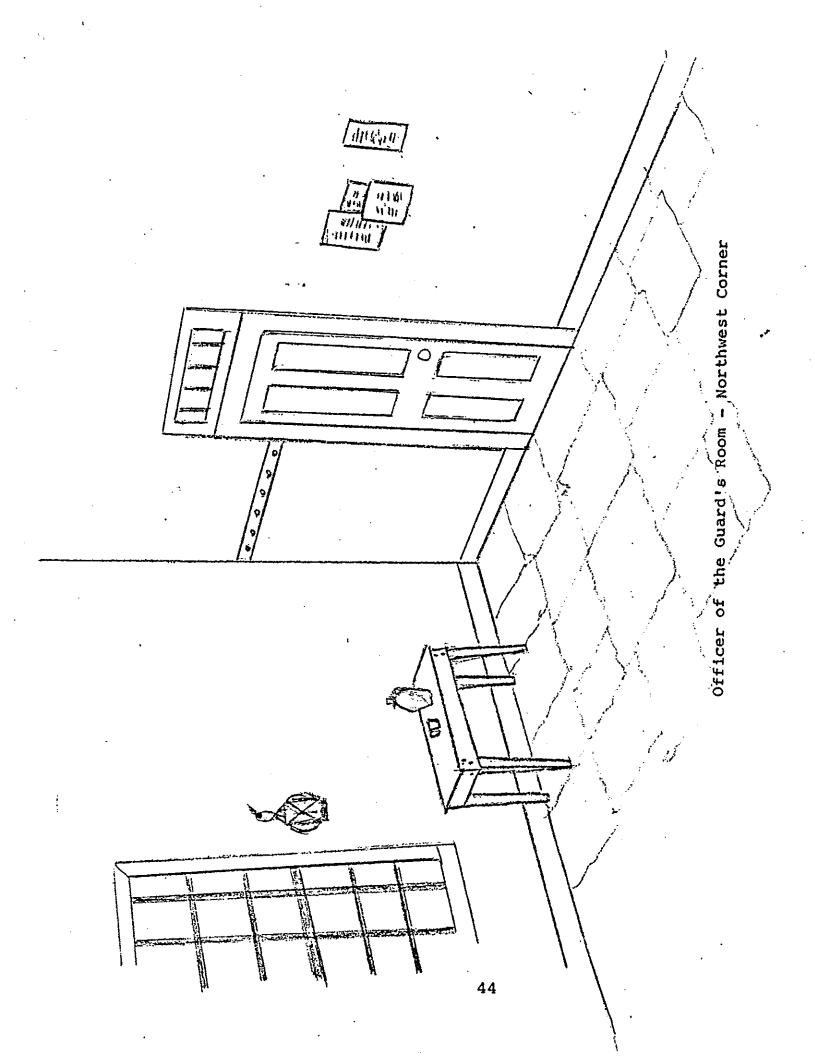
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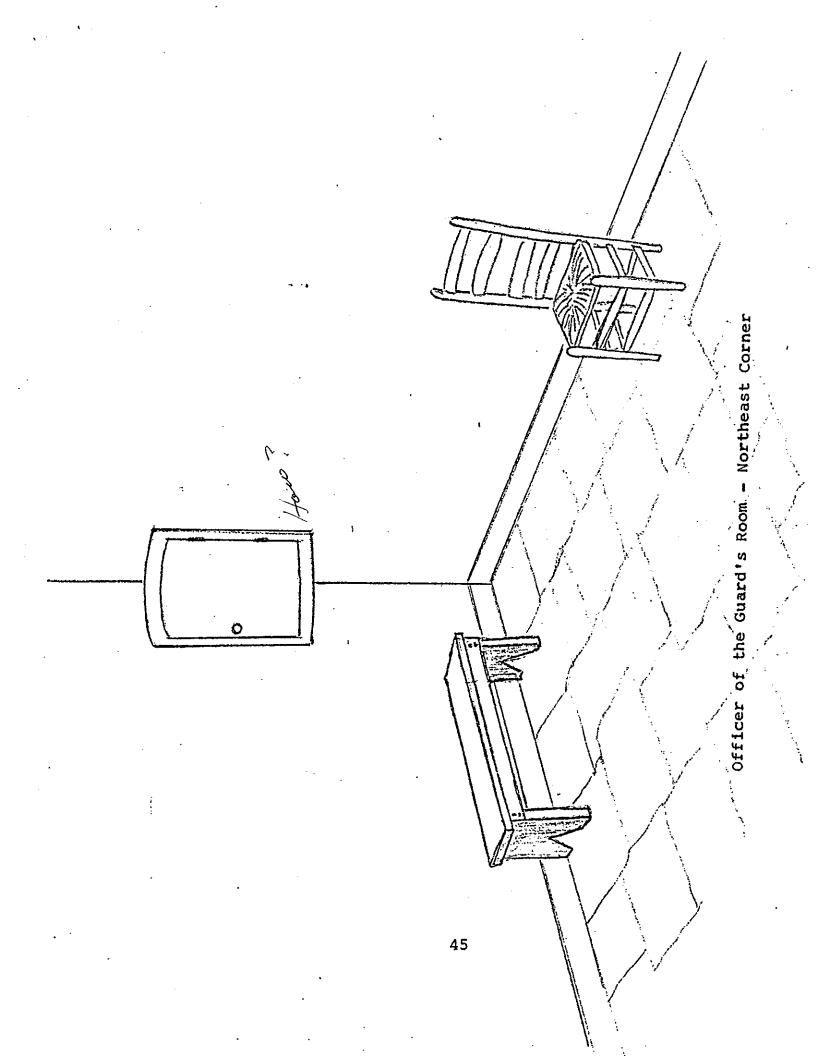
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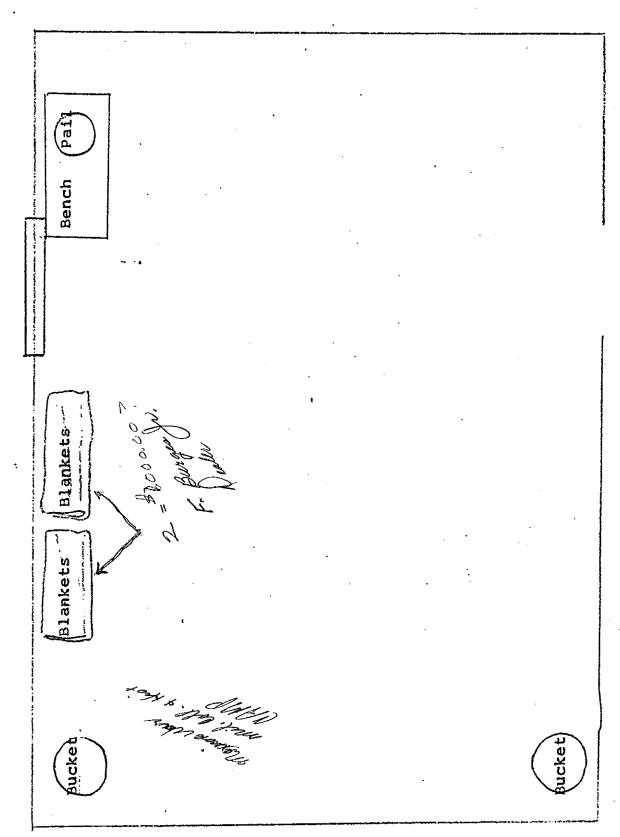
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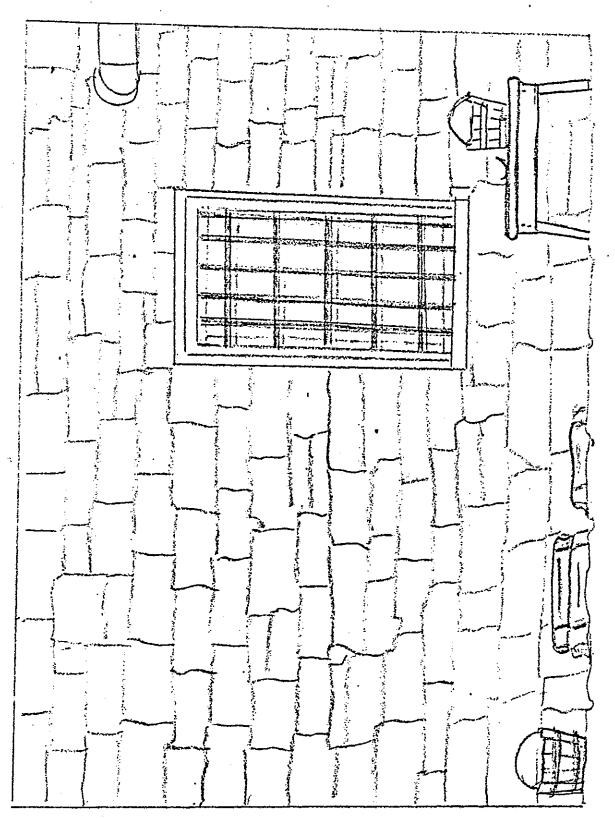
Officer of the Guard's Room-Floor Plan



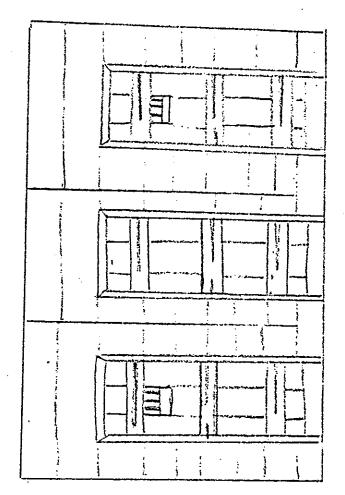


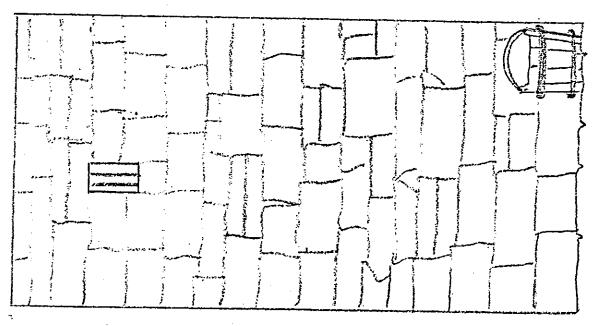






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INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION

All items should be installed as if actual soldiers are using them. Since the Officer of the Day changed constantly, the officer's room naturally would lack personality. Items revealing the interests of the officer would be absent. Forms should be placed on the desk waiting to be filled out. Perhaps to emphasize the monotony of the job, a piece of foolscap paper could be placed on the desk. It could be covered with the doodles in ink of a bored officer. The candle should be burned partially, and some wax may even have spilled on the desk.

To keep the books erect on the shelf, it may be necessary to take a piece of stone, perhaps the kind used in the construction of the guardhouse, to use as a bookend. The leg irons, if used for interpretive purposes, should be kept in the cabinet and not be allowed to lay about. The posters should be written in black ink on heavy paper. They should be dated to coincide with the guardhouse, and the script should be the old fashioned round hand of the Nineteenth Century. The coal box should have coal in it. The stove probably was not lit in the summer, but the box may have been kept full in case the nights turned cold.

Maintenance will involve keeping the office clean. Dust and dirt would not have been permitted in this area. It may be necessary to change the circulars and posters as they become faded and ex-

posed to sunlight. The blankets in the prison room will need frequent airing and shaking to prevent moth and dust damage. Rodents also should be watched for in this area.

Protection in the officer's room will be taken care of largely by a guard rail and by interpreters in the office, although some attention should be paid to the small items on the desk. Such items make popular souvenirs sometimes. Visitors, however, will be permitted access to the guardroom, cells, and prison room. Here, efforts will have to be made to protect the exhibits and furnishings. Fortunately, the latter are limited, but the blankets and buckets in the prison and cells may be handled to some extent. Care should be taken that the walls are not defaced. for the prison room may prove to be attractive for those who delight in leaving messages. Should this happen, it may be necessary to secure the grated door and limit access to the area. Frequent monitoring of these areas by interpreters and guides will be helpful.

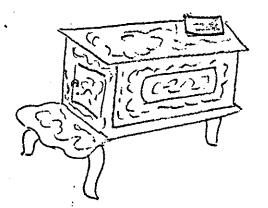
Congestion of visitors may occur both outside the guardhouse in the vicinity of the audio and in the cell area. The same doorway in the guardroom serves as entrance and exit to the cells and prison room, and on busy weekends, it may be necessary to limit the number of people allowed in the rear area at one time. This is a problem that will have to be worked out as time goes on.

If the 'sawbuck" is erected outside the guard-

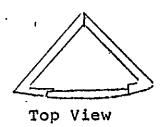
house, care should be taken that it is sturdily made, and visitors should not be allowed to climb upon it. People, particularly children, also should not be allowed to mount the barrel. Prevention of accidents should begin before they happen.

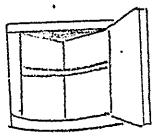
One last word of caution involves responsibility for the guardhouse. Since air conditioning is not contemplated, the windows in the structure will be used to admit air in seasonable weather. Responsibility should be clearly assigned for seeing the windows are closed in case of sudden dust or rain storms that might damage the furnishings.

APPENDIX



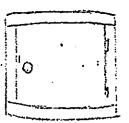
Stove - 1843





Door Open

Corner Cabinet



Door Closed

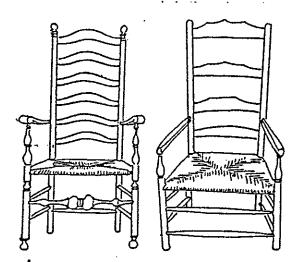


Fig. 14. (Left) A Pennsylvania type ladder or slat back chair made in the last half of the eighteenth century. (Right) The crude slat backs made during the 1830's and 40's.

To the Right, a Ladder-Back Chair of the Nineteenth Century.

Officer of the Guard.

GENERAL REULATIONS

proper authority, and prevent every species of inequisity among the non. They must particularly ascertain that the Corporals themselves are well informed with respect to the orders they are to deliver to the several sentincle, whom they must frequently visit, to be assured that they know tivir duty, and have reseived the proper instructions.

631....Officers commanding guards, when going to visit their sonthick, are to mention their intention, and the probable time of their abwave, to the next efficer in command.

698.... The officers are to remain constantly at their gourds, exceptwhile visiting their rentinels; nor are they to enter any house or place of public anusement.

629.....Neither officers nor soldiers are, on any necessit, to take off their clothing or accontrements while they are on guard; but are always to be in their uniform, fully equipped for the service.

630 ... The officer, who mounts the camp guard, must give orders cept by one of the guards; nor then, till the officer of the guard has to the sentine's not to suffer any person to pass in or out of comp, exexamined him.

GIL.... The officer of the guard must see that the countersign is duly communicated to the sentinels a little before twilight.

632....In ever one of the guard desert, the other of the guard must inmediately change the countersizn, and send notice thereof to the officer of the day, who is to communicate the same to the other guards. and to head-quarters.

thus....Offivers communiting gunrels at the ports, are to cause the bridges to be drawn up, or the barriers to be shut, on the approach of gund, and are not to suffer any of them to enter the garrison without any body of armed men, of which they are to give notice to the main leave from the communication.

Edd.... The officer of the guard will send to the officer of the day, at guard-mounting, by a non-commissioned officer, a report of his tour of service, according to the following form; a copy of which will be left with the officer who relieves him:

FOR THE ARMY.

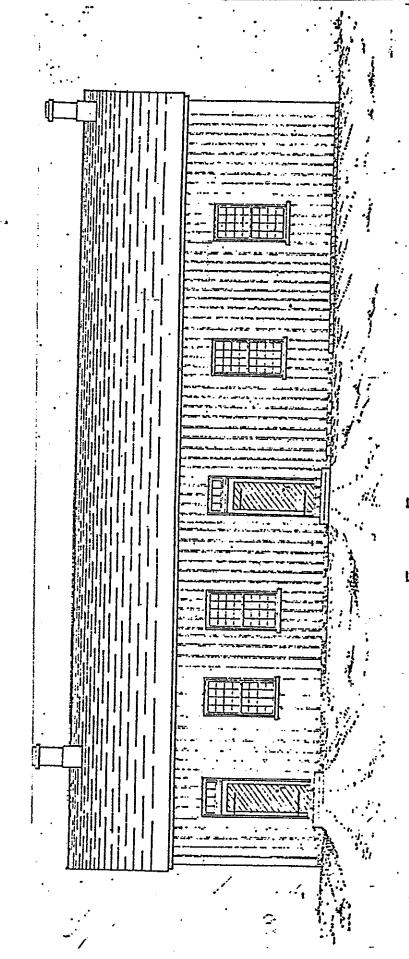
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Officer of the Grand.

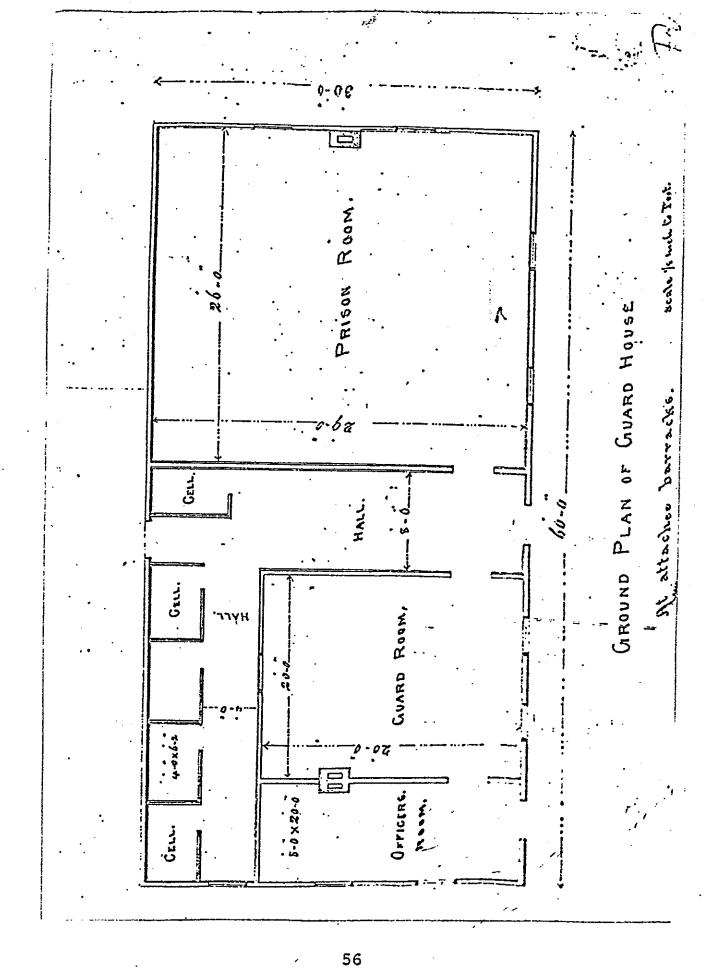
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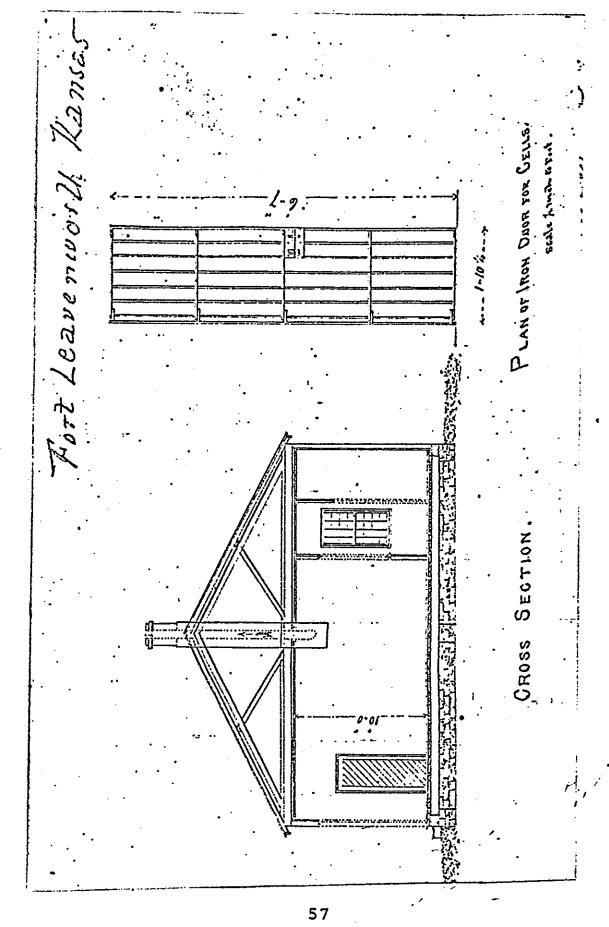
FLOOR PLANS AND ELEVATIONS OF TWO GUARDHOUSES, FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, 1866.

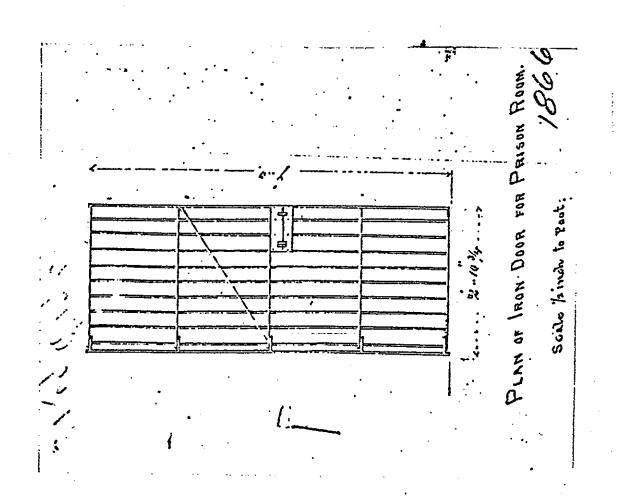
(Plans were furnished by Thomas Barr, Archeologist with the Kansas State Historical Society and obtained from the National Archives.)

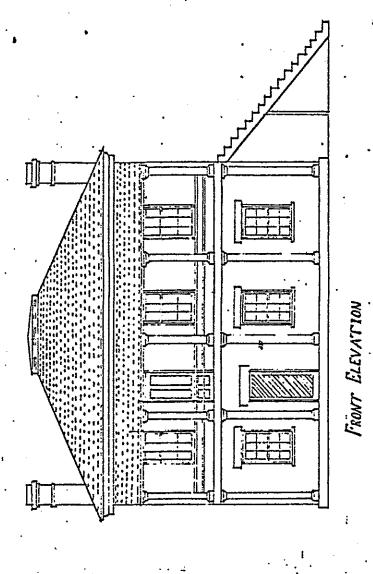


FRONT ELEVATION.

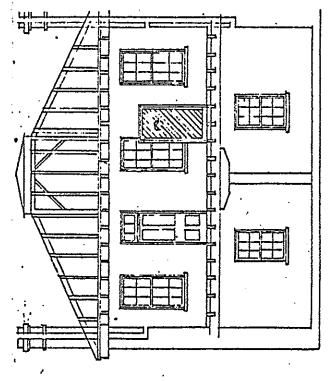




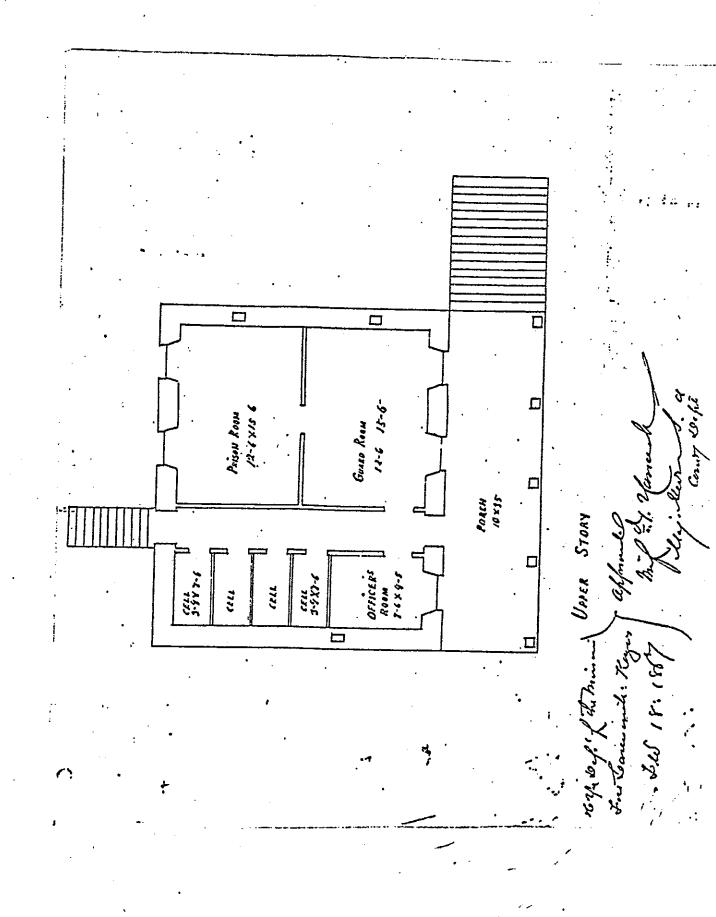


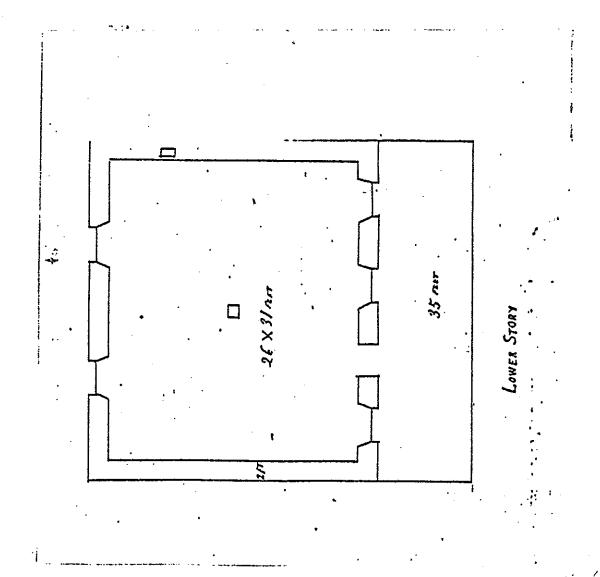


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CAOSS SECTIONAND REAR WALL





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